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OFFICE HOURS

7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday

STREET ADDRESS

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Peru, IN 46970

POWER OUTAGES

To report a power outage, call 844-473-6668. We are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dennis "Jim" Savage, *President*

Todd Smith, *Vice President*

Cindy Scott, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Tony Caldwell

Mark B. Hahn

Scott Marschand

Donald E. Willson

STAFF

Robert Schwartz
CEO

Brandon Williams
Director of Operations

Matt Mavrick
Director of Information Technology

Kim Burton
Special Projects

Stephanie Ziems
Director of Finance and Accounting

Mike Barron
Director of Member Services

Laura Goodman
Director of Human Resources

Liz Vance
Office Manager

ANNUAL MEETING *Stays Virtual*



I never would have imagined when we were planning our first-ever virtual meeting last year, that we would be planning our second for this

year. But here we are, doing just that.

An in-person meeting takes months to plan to ensure we have a location that can hold the 500-700 people who usually attend, secure catering and book entertainment. So, we start planning at the first of the year. Unfortunately, in January and February, there were still many questions about where we would be regarding the virus and whether, with such a large attendance, we could provide enough social distancing and be in compliance with any orders from Gov. Holcomb's office. Therefore, we thought it best to err on the side of caution and plan 2021's annual meeting as a virtual meeting.

This year's meeting will be held on June 17 at 5:30 p.m. Like last year, we will send you a postcard with step-by-step instructions on how to join the meeting and direct you to our June issue of Indiana Connection.

In that issue, we will have several pages which will include last year's annual meeting minutes and

financials. At that time, we will ask you to vote to approve the 2020 annual meeting minutes. You will also be voting for directors who are up for election, if any are running opposed.

Board members who are up for election in 2021 are:

Jim Savage — District 1

Scott Marschand — District 3

Don Willson — District 4

The voting card will also be saved and used to draw for prizes, which will include bill credits and gift cards.

The meeting will last approximately an hour, and each member is encouraged to attend. It will provide you an opportunity to hear about the state of the co-op, and I plan to give an update on our broadband project. After receiving instructions on how to attend the meeting, if you still have questions, please contact our office prior to the meeting, and we will assist you.

If possible, we anticipate going back to an in-person meeting format in 2022, and we are looking forward to seeing our members.

Please join us on June 17 for your annual meeting.

ROB SCHWARTZ
CEO



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Board meets in **MARCH**

1. Counted seven board members attending via teleconference. Attorney, Jeremy Fetty also attended via teleconference.
2. WVPA board report was given by Scott Marschand.
3. Schwartz presented the monthly CEO report.
4. Minutes from the previous board meeting were approved.
5. Financial report given by Schwartz.
6. February monthly operating, member services and safety reports were reviewed and approved.
7. Set the next board meeting for Tuesday, April. 27, at 7:30 p.m at the REMC headquarters.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

A dirty filter causes your air conditioner to work harder than necessary. Remember to change your air filter every month (or every two months) to prevent dust buildup. — energy.gov

A graphic for the Miami-Cass REMC Annual Meeting. The background is a bright blue sky filled with many colorful balloons in shades of yellow, orange, red, purple, and blue. The text "Miami-Cass REMC" is in white, and "ANNUAL MEETING" is in large, bold, white letters. A dark teal banner at the bottom contains the text "Look for more details on our virtual meeting in next month's Indiana Connection" in white. On the right side, there is a large orange circle containing the text "THURSDAY, JUNE 17" in white, with "7:30 p.m." in smaller white text below it.

Miami-Cass REMC
ANNUAL MEETING

Look for more details on our virtual meeting in next month's Indiana Connection

THURSDAY, JUNE 17
7:30 p.m.

Students: Apply now for a Miami-Cass REMC scholarship

Must be enrolled and attend any two-year, four-year or technical school as a full time student for the fall semester 2021 (you are no longer required to be a graduating senior).

You or your parents/guardians must be members of Miami-Cass REMC.

A student is not eligible if he/she has been previously awarded a scholarship by Miami-Cass REMC.

All applications must be postmarked or delivered to the Miami-Cass REMC office by June 1.

Questions? Contact Mike Barron at 765-473-6668 or email mikeb@mcremc.coop



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

MEET OUR MEMBER SERVICES TEAM

Along with linemen, one of the most visible positions at an electric co-op is the member services representative. Miami-Cass REMC would like to spotlight our member service representatives — Karen Chester and Michelle Hays.

Karen Chester

started her career at the REMC in October 1988. Prior to that, she worked at the Miami County Courthouse. Chester wasn't looking for a new job at the time, but when the REMC called her (based on the recommendation of a couple of local attorneys) about the cashier's position she accepted.



As a member service specialist, Chester is responsible for collections, outage management, month-end reporting and other customer service responsibilities. She enjoys her position and the opportunities it provides her to interact with members when they come into the office.

During her over 30 years with the REMC, Chester has seen many changes. The biggest change occurred last year with the acquisition of Broadway Broadband. Until that time, the REMC only provided electricity-related services.

Chester shared that her proudest moment at the REMC was when she completed the Rural Electric Leaders in Training Exchange (RELITE) program, a two-year leadership program offered by Indiana Electric Cooperatives. The program is designed to foster a network of leaders within Indiana's electric cooperatives.

Chester is a native of Peru and a graduate of Peru High school. After high school, she attended John Herron Art Institute for a period of time, and she still enjoys drawing and painting. Chester also enjoys spending time with family and friends. She has a grown daughter, a 12-year-old granddaughter and an 8-year-old grandson. Her bucket list includes taking her family on a trip to Hawaii along with traveling to Paris or Ireland.

Michelle Hays

has been with Miami-Cass REMC for six years. In her position, she assists new members with



setting up service, works as cashier and helps members who call or visit the office. Prior to working at the REMC, Hays had worked with people with disabilities at Peak Community Services for 16 years.

She had driven by the REMC almost daily and felt led to stop in one day to see if there were any job openings. Hay's current position was available, so she applied.

She really enjoys the relationships she has fostered with the members and enjoys getting to hear their stories. Hays considers each day a success if she has done her job to the best of her ability and has maybe changed a life along the way.

Hays was born in England and at nine months of age was adopted by a U.S. military couple who were stationed there. The family moved back to the U.S. when she three years old, then moved to Peru when she was around 7 or 8 years old. Hays became a U.S. citizen at 16 and graduated from Maconaquah High School a couple of years later.

She married her husband Doug, who serves in the military, 21 years ago, and together they have four children. The couple have seven grandchildren ranging in age from 2 to 22. Hays loves being home, cooking and spending time with her family. When Hays was growing up, she didn't dream of a fancy career but always wanted to be a homemaker and mom.

We at Miami-Cass are thankful to have both Chester and Hays as part of the REMC family. We are fortunate to have them on our team.

Avoid DOWNED POWER LINES



KNOW HOW TO BE SAFE AROUND THEM

Power lines crisscross our countryside, bringing the benefits of electricity. But storms or accidents can knock them from their perch and put them on the ground or within reach. **Just because they're down doesn't mean they're dead.**

If you see a downed power line, move away from it and anything touching it. Keep a distance of 35 feet. The ground around downed power lines may be energized. If you are in a car, stay put.

If power lines fall on the car, the car can become energized. People who are safe inside will remain safe — as long as they stay put. Opening a door and stepping out can kill the person leaving the car.

HERE ARE SOME OTHER BASIC TIPS FOR SAFETY:

- If you see someone in direct or indirect contact with a downed line, **DO NOT touch him or her.** Call 911 for assistance.
- **NEVER attempt to move a downed power line** or anything else in contact with it using an object such as a broom or stick.
- If your vehicle comes in contact with a downed power line while you're in the vehicle, **stay inside the car.** Call 911 or honk your horn to get help. Tell bystanders to stay away from the vehicle.
- If you must exit the vehicle for life-threatening reasons, such as if the car has caught on fire — **jump out and clear from it, making sure to land with your feet together.** Do not touch the car and the ground at the same time. Shuffle away with your feet touching until you reach a safe distance.

